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March 31, 2009

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**MEASURE B FUNDING ALLOCATION  
FOR TRAUMA AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

To request approval of a Measure B Trauma Property Assessment funding allocation to the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) for trauma air transport services.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve and instruct the Interim Director of Health Services (Director), or his designee, to provide Measure B funding, up to \$1.2 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09, up to \$1.3 million per year for FY's 2009-10 and 2010-11, up to \$1.1 million for FY 2011-12, and up to \$327,000 in future fiscal years, to the LAFD for the cost of providing trauma air transport in the underserved areas of the San Fernando Valley and surrounding communities and reimbursement of equipment costs associated with the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport System (CAMTS) survey.
2. Approve and delegate authority to the Interim Director, or his designee, to amend, execute and offer for signature to the LAFD, the Medical Control Agreement governing the provision of emergency medical services which was, previously approved by the Board on June 17, 2008 and pending execution, to designate Measure B funding, up to \$1.2 million for FY 2008-09, up to \$1.3 million for FY's 2009-10 and 2010-11, up to \$1.1 million for FY 2011-12 and up to \$327,000 for future fiscal years plus any additional funding approved by the Board for the cost of trauma air transport services provided by the LAFD.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Approval of the recommended actions will provide funding to the LAFD to ensure safety and adequate capability of its aero medical transportation system for trauma patients in the underserved areas of the San Fernando Valley and surrounding communities. The funding provision, substantially similar to Exhibit I, will be added to the Additional Provisions in the Medical Control Agreement with the LAFD. Funding will be utilized for staffing, direct operating costs, training and one-time equipment costs as required by the CAMTS survey and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency policy to enhance safety of patient care.

To enhance services within Los Angeles County, the LAFD recently replaced two of its older aircraft with the Agusta Westland 139 (AW 139) aircraft. Additionally, the LAFD plans on placing an order for their third AW 139 within the next couple of months. These state-of-the-art helicopters provide greater performance through increased air speed (i.e., shorter en route and shorter transport times) and allow for a greater margin of safety through twin-engine performance and enhanced crash worthiness within the aircraft's airframe. These AW 139, among the total of four air transport vehicles available for use, will be the primary means of transportation.

Currently, LAFD has an authorized pilot staff of 13 members, of which only 10 are filled, and three authorized pilot trainee positions, which are all filled. The destruction of their training aircraft in 2005 has limited the LAFD's ability to train new pilots. With the approval of the Measure B funds, three additional pilot trainees will be added to the program. The average duration in the pilot certification program is three to four years and not all candidates are successful. With a projected attrition of experienced pilots at a rate of one pilot per year for the next four to five years, LAFD will not be able to ensure that qualified pilots are available to operate the transport services without these additional trainees. As part of LAFD's aero medical operations, pilots are assigned to specific aircraft for a 24-hour period and then rotated to another aircraft within the fleet for another 24-hour period. This operation ensures the highest proficiency model for the pilots and has served the Department well for the past 40 years. In addition to the rotation of pilots, the aero medical transport aircraft is also rotated on a monthly basis; this ensures all the aircrafts share equally in total flight hours.

Measure B funding for training will cover a period of three (3) years from date of Board approval to allow the LAFD to develop a core of qualified pilots and address the critical need of training and certifying pilots to operate the Department's emergency helicopters for air ambulance missions. The requested funding is essential for the LAFD to enhance its pilot training program to ensure current and future goals of unparalleled aero medical trauma transport services. Without the approval of the requested funding,

it would be virtually impossible for the LAFD to ensure safety and capability of its aero medical transportation services for trauma patients.

The LAFD has also agreed to provide annually up to 20 free interfacility air ambulance transports of Olive View Medical Center patients.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions support Goal 4, Health and Mental Health of the County's Strategic Plan.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

For FY 2008-09 a total of up to \$1.2 million in Measure B funds is being requested for staffing, direct operating costs, training and associated one-time equipment costs to meet the CAMTS survey requirements. Funding is available within the existing annual allocation of \$4.4 million in the Measure B Special Tax Fund for trauma air transport enhancement.

The total amount requested for future FY's is \$1.3 million for FY's 2009-10 and 2010-11, \$1.1 million for FY 2011-12, and \$327,000 beginning in FY 2012-13. The funding is being reduced since Measure B funding is only provided to cover the training program for a three (3) year period. After that, LAFD will cover the cost to maintain the core group of trained pilots. Funding for future FY's will be available within the \$4.4 million annual Measure B allocation, and addressed in each fiscal years budget process.

Funding provided to LAFD will be based on actual costs, subject to review and approval by the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Chief Executive Office (CEO). At the end of each fiscal year, any unused Measure B funds will remain in the Measure B Special Fund, pending additional uses recommended by DHS and approved by your Board.

LAFD has indicated that if additional funding needs are identified to continue providing the enhanced trauma air transport above the \$327,000 allocation, a detailed request will be submitted to DHS and the CEO for review and, if necessary, presented to your Board for approval.

Los Angeles (L.A.) County Sheriff, L.A County Fire, and LAFD all provide air transport services for patients in the underserved areas. Currently, only LAFD is not receiving Measure B funds for their services.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Beginning in FY 2003-04, your Board approved an annual allocation of \$4.4 million in Measure B funding for expanded access to trauma services for patients in underserved areas (East San Gabriel Valley, Antelope Valley and Malibu), as well as pediatric trauma air transport in the San Fernando Valley, to ensure the infrastructure for trauma transports. The monies have been used to fund the L.A. County Fire Department's helicopter lease/purchase costs relating to the expansion of air ambulance services in the Antelope Valley, and the L.A. County's Fire Department and Sheriff's Department for the provision of expanded paramedic and air transport services to trauma center criteria patients in underserved areas.

On June 17, 2008, your Board approved and instructed the Director to execute Medical Control Agreements, following signature by authorized representatives of County-approved public paramedic providers, such as LAFD. These agreements, which are required by State regulations, specify the responsibilities of public paramedic providers and the EMS Agency in the delivery of Advanced Life Support services within their respective jurisdiction in accordance with State law and regulations. Pursuant to further negotiations between DHS and the LAFD regarding the subject Measure B funding proposal, the parties agreed to delay execution of LAFD's Medical Control Agreement until such time the Measure B funding, if approved by your Board, could be added to the additional provisions of that agreement.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved Exhibit I as to use and form.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

Not applicable.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

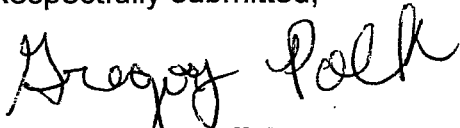
Approval of this request will preserve and enhance the critical response capabilities of the LAFD with aircraft transport capabilities in the San Fernando Valley and surrounding communities.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
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**CONCLUSION**

When approved, DHS requires three signed copies of the Board's action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Polk".

for John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.  
Interim Director

JFS:rg

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Measure B BL

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS NO. 2

(MEDICAL CONTROL AGREEMENT)

2. FUNDING

A. Trauma patient services and transport via helicopter generates additional costs for the Provider which may be mitigated when other non-district funds are available and approved by the County's Board of Supervisors.

B. Funds available through Measure B Trauma Property Assessment (TPA), passed by the voters in 2002, may be used to ensure trauma services throughout the County, including underserved trauma areas of the County as approved by the County's Board of Supervisors. Should the need for trauma transportation by air significantly decrease in the City of Los Angeles, the funding may be redirected from this program to support indigent care reimbursement at a newly designated trauma center(s) as determined by the County's Board of Supervisors.

C. TERM: The funding component as specified in Paragraph B of this Exhibit requires annual approval by the County's Board of Supervisors. The Provider agrees that if for any reason this Agreement is cancelled by mutual consent, the last payment will be for services rendered prior to the official date of cancellation.

D. FUNDING: Funding from the Measure B TPA to the Los Angeles City Fire Department shall be an ongoing annual allocation. The Fiscal Year 2008-09 annual maximum obligation approved by the Chief Executive Office (CEO) is up to One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,200,000). The Fiscal Years' 2009-10 and 2010-11 annual maximum obligation approved by the CEO is up to One Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,300,000). The Fiscal Year 2011-12 maximum obligation approved by the CEO is up to One Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,100,000). The annual maximum obligation approved by the CEO, beginning in Fiscal Year 2012-13, is up to Three Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$327,000).

E. Provider shall submit verification of expenditures to support and quantify Measure B TPA utilization as approved by the County's Board of Supervisors.

F. EMS Agency shall work with the CEO to validate documentation of expenditures and forward to DHS Finance for transfer of Measure B TPA Funds to Provider.